

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 02512 141228Z

15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 AGR-05 L-03 H-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

FMC-01 DOTE-00 /097 W

----- 095417

O 141100Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5754

AMCONSUL GENOA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 2512

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, IT

SUBJ: UNITED BRANDS SHIPMENT IN GENOA HARBOR

REF: STATE 036350

1. COMMERCIAL CONUNSELOR TELEPHONED BERETTI, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (MFT), MORNING FEB. 14, TO ASK FOR ISSUANCE OF LICENSE FOR "PONTOS" TO UNLOAD UNITED BRANDS CARGO. BERETTI, WHO WAS AWARE OF PROBLEM, STATED MATTER WAS QTE POLITICAL UNQTE IN NATURE AND THAT HE WAS NOT AUTHORIZED TO TAKE ANY ACTION TO RELEASE CARGO. HE ADDED THAT APPROACH AT QTE POLITICAL LEVEL UNQTE WOULD BE REQUIRED.

2. SINCE THAT APPROACH WAS UNSUCCESSFUL, ECMIN THEN TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR GIAZZARONI, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA). GUAZZARONI STATED THAT PROBLEM WAS OF A GENERAL NATURE, I.E., DRAFT DECREE GOVERNING IMPORT QUOTAS FOR BANANAS HAD BEEN DRAWN UP BUT COULD NOT BE SIGNED BY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE BECAUSE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 02512 141228Z

OF GOVERNMENT CRISIS. HE ASSERTED THAT MFA HAD ALREADY

MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO MFT ON BEHALF OF SEVERAL COUNTRIES ON THIS SUBJECT (E.G., EQUADOR AND COLOMBIA). WHEN ECOMIN NOTED THAT MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE HAD REMAINED IN OFFICE DURING ENTIRE PERIOD OF GOVERNMENT CRISIS AND EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO MAKE TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR ISSUANCE OF LICENSES FOR SHIPMENTS ARRIVING BEFORE SETTLEMENT OF GOVERNMENT CRISIS (PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF SPOILAGE PROBLEM), GUAZZARONI REPLIED THAT PRIME MINISTER MORO HAD INSTRUCTED MINISTERS NOT TO MAKE POLICY DECISIONS UNTIL AFTER FORMATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED THAT SINCE GOVERNMENT CRISIS HAD ENDED, HE EXPECTED ISSUE OF BANANA QUOTAS TO BE SETTLE SHORTLY. AT ECOMIN'S URGING, GUAZZARONI PROMISED TO INTERVENE TODAY WITH MFT ON "PONTOS" SHIPMENT.

3. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY THERE SOME UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ON THIS ISSUE. IF GUAZZARONI'S STATEMENTS ARE ACCURATE, IT IS SURPRISING, AND OUT OF CHARACTER, THAT BERETTI DID NOT GIVE SAME STORY. GUAZZARONI'S STATEMENTS SEEM SOMEWHAT DUBIOUS SINCE, IF PROBLEM WERE MERELY ONE OF GOVERNMENT CRISIS, IT IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND WHY (A) DECREE COULD NOT BE SIGNED ANYWAY OR AT LEAST (B) SHIPMENTS IMPORTED UNDER SOME SORT OF TEMPORARY SCHEME. IN ANY EVENT, EMBASSY HOPEFUL THAT ITS INTERVENTION WITH GUAZZARONI WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING PERMISSION FOR IMPORTATION OF CARGO.VOLPE

NOTE BY OC/T: REFERENCE AS RECEIVED.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FRUIT, IMPORT QUOTAS, IMPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ROME02512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760057-0460
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760247/aaaabpht.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 36350
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNITED BRANDS SHIPMENT IN GENOA HARBOR
TAGS: ETRD, EWWT, IT, UNITED BRANDS
To: STATE GENOA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006